

Research Activity Panel Meeting Summary

Gregor M. Cailliet, MLML, RAP Chair

APRIL RAP MEETING

Host: California State University Monterey Bay (Steve Moore)

Friday 14 April, 2000

Attendance: 12 RAP members and 5 guests

PRESENTATIONS

CSUMB Update (Steve Moore)

- Steve discussed increasing enrollments at CSUMB (fifth year; ~2,200, with ~10% in fields related to science, economics and policy) and a new science building being planned for construction.
- Projects related to MBNMS include: Kvitek- mapping; Steve Moore- subtidal sensors for microhabitats; Henrik Kibak- elephant seal project (video web cam on Ano Nuevo and associated curricula for all levels of students- Find web site); Dan Fernandez- CODAR; Dan Fernandez et al.- recruitment in science education. for minority and under-represented students; Suzy Worcester et al- Moro Cojo restoration monitoring; Lars Pierce et al - Salinas Valley 2020; Susan Alexander and Mike Dalton- Fisheries Modeling.
- The CSUMB service learning provides opportunities for students to work with scientists so student learns and “user” gains value on their projects. By definition, must be volunteers, not paid (one semester during the school year). 50 hrs per semester as a minimum. Contact Service Learning Institute.

MOOS Upper-water-column Science Experiment (Mario Tamburri)

- This is the MBARI Ocean Observatory System, with MUSE added to make a double (or triple ! acronym). For more information, go to www.mbari.org/MUSE. The Project Manager is Michael Matthews and date for the project August 17 - 30, 2000. The objective is to track an upwelling event, including the evolution of biological communities across nutrient-rich upwelling fronts and to assess the processes that control the transformation of re-suspended iron into bio-available iron.

DISCUSSION

Assessment of the GeoSea Report (“A sediment trend analysis of Santa Cruz Harbor and its vicinity”)

Pat Cotter requested the RAP review this document relative to Sanctuary regulations and objectives. A committee led by Mike Field (USGS) was formed including others from USGS (Chris Sherwood and Steve Eittreim) and UCSC (Gary Griggs and Matt Edwards) and they will review the report and provide an evaluation by the next RAP meeting.

Sanctuary Currents 2000

Andrew DeVogelaere reviewed the 2000 Sanctuary Currents from the returned questionnaires. Circulation of the award winning posters around MBNMS research and education institutions was proposed and requested by several institutions.

Sanctuary Currents 2001

The RAP discussed the theme for 2001. It was thought that the subject might be broadened and subjects discussed were fisheries-related issues, such as trawling, aquaculture, kelp harvesting, and marine protected areas, with one objective being to bring in other users, such as fishermen. Churchill Grimes was tentatively appointed as chair and the length (one or two days) was discussed.

Ecosystem Observations 2000

The RAP provided some input on the past Ecosystem Observations, mainly pointing out that it: 1) looks great and is of high quality; 2) provides a good overview in a middle ground between science and the public; 3) should continue as a balanced review of research by the collaborative researchers from many institutions that benefit the sanctuary, rather than a sanctuary annual report, perhaps including a short sentence with each article saying who funded the work; and 4) is a feather in Bill Douros' and MBNMS' cap. For next year, articles on MUSE, REAL, seafloor mapping, and long term ecosystem changes (regimes) should be considered.

RAP Policy Discussion

The RAP discussed its official policy description. It was decided that the way we have operated in the past should be continued and that the RAP should avoid advocacy and remain as objective as possible on all issues. We added the words "provide a mechanism for facilitating the integration of marine research and policy."

Update from Sanctuary Foundation

Dennis Long reviewed the Foundation's projects: 1) Salmon and steelhead education projects (NMFS, SOS, CWC, SC County, etc. support); 2) Point Pinos intertidal research RFP; 3) Host of Ecosystem Monitoring Workshop; 4) Continuation of enforcement grant; and 5) Continued solicitation of more, larger grants.

Long-term ecosystem changes

Gary Sharp reviewed a recent conference ("Beyond El Nino") which documented long-term ecosystem changes (regime shifts) and discussed their implications for the MBNMS and understanding ecosystem monitoring here (new phrase "shift happens").

Update on MBCORC

Chris Harrold reviewed the 15 April MBCORC meeting at which Marcia McNutt was elected Chair. The Group went through a self-evaluation, and decided on quarterly updating meetings.

Sustainable Seas Expedition

Andrew reviewed the status of SSE for 2000.

Kelp canopy assessment for 1999

Mario Tamburri presented the most recent data and showed the RAP the results.

Environmental Hero Award for 2000

Andrew DeVogelaere announced that this year's award will go to Mark Silberstein, ESF.